

COMPLETION CEREMONY FOR DEFENSE LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Seventy-four participants who completed the Defense Leadership and Management Program (DLAMP) were honored on February 7, 2006, at a ceremony in Arlington, Virginia, hosted by the Honorable David S. C. Chu, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

The Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Gordon England, participated in the event as a special guest speaker. In his remarks, Mr. England thanked the honorees for their service to America, and reminded them that much is expected of them as senior Defense leaders. He went on to share his personal leadership philosophy, which he has summarized into 15 leadership principles. Speaking to several of these principles, Mr. England discussed the value of one's time as a non-renewable resource; the importance of making ethical decisions and creating an ethical climate in the workplace; and the benefits of leaders' life-long learning, even for top leaders.

Dr. Chu presented the keynote address, noting several of the many critical initiatives underway in the Department today. He cited the implementation of the National Security Personnel System, the Defense Language Program, and recent Base Realignment and Closure decisions as examples of Defense transformation at work, and challenged the graduates to be strong and creative leaders of change. He also praised the honorees for their commitment to excellence in public service, and specifically to serving and leading within the Department of Defense.

The Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Francis J. Harvey, was among the many distinguished guests present for the event. Ms. Patricia S. Bradshaw, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Civilian Personnel Policy and Mr. Brad Bunn, Director, Civilian Personnel Management Service presented Certificates of Completion to the honorees. A total of 349 DLAMP participants have now met the program goals.

DLAMP is the premier executive development program for senior Defense civilians and a key component of the Department's succession planning strategy. Established in 1997, DLAMP provides the means to mature a cadre of highly capable senior civilian leaders with a joint perspective on managing the Department's workforce and programs. Nominees for DLAMP must occupy, on a permanent basis, a position at or equivalent to GS-14 or 15; senior high-potential GS-13s may also be considered. Participants are selected competitively through an annual Component nomination process for admission to DLAMP. Generally, all program requirements can be completed in two to five years, depending upon the individual's prior education, training and experience.

Today there are over 870 DLAMP participants throughout the Department of Defense. The next completion ceremony is projected for July 2006. The solicitation for the DLAMP Class of 2006 is currently open.